

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application and the same are rejected. By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1-19 remain in the application and are presented for review and further consideration by the Examiner.

The Examiner has objected to the title of the invention as not being indicative of the invention to which claims are directed.

In response, Applicants have amended the title.

The Examiner has rejected claims 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In particular, claims 18 and 19 recite the limitation program storage device in reference to claim 15 and claim 15 is directed to a system.

In response, Applicants have amended claims 18 and 19 to depend from claim 17, which is directed to a program storage device.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 4-10, and 12-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Klebanov, U.S. Patent No. 6,397,327. (Examiner's Action, page 3, ¶ 1).

In response, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 9, and 17.

Klebanov discloses an apparatus for configuring a computer system. During startup, a computer system attempts to access a video graphics adapter (VGA). When such a device is located, information about the device is added to the configuration, or registry file of the computer system. (Klebanov, col. 2, lines 20-31). The information about the device is of the type of information that will allow the computer system to identify the VGA as a specific product from a particular manufacturer. (Klebanov, col. 2, line 62 – col. 3, line 6). Klebanov does not disclose that the information is usage data. Therefore, Klebanov does not disclose usage data captured for copying to an index.

Lecheler discloses a method and system for configuring a network management network. The network comprises a plurality of network devices 22. A performance poll is used to determine how network devices 22 are being utilized. Information obtained during the performance poll includes usage information. Lecheler does not disclose the usage information being recorded in an index. Therefore, Lecheler does not disclose usage data captured for copying to an index.

In contrast, Applicants' independent claims 1, 9, and 17, as amended, include wording that usage data is captured, from the discovered fleet device, for copying to the index. Neither Klebanov nor Lecheler discloses capturing usage data for copying to an index.

Additionally, Applicants' dependent claims 4 and 12 have been amended to more clearly express Applicants' invention.

Neither Klebanov nor Lecheler discloses labeling a fleet device as removed. Klebanov discloses that devices are removed from a registry if they do not match a list of connected devices. However, the devices are not labeled in the registry as removed. Therefore, Klebanov does not disclose labeling a fleet device as removed. Neither does Lecheler disclose removing, identifying, or labeling devices that are removed.

In contrast, Applicants' dependent claims 4 and 12, as amended, include wording that the fleet device is labeled as removed. Neither Klebanov nor Lecheler discloses this limitation.

In addition, neither Klebanov nor Lecheler discloses verifying a fleet device has a unique identifier. The Examiner does not suggest that Lecheler does so. Klebanov discloses that a registry is updated for each unexpected device that is "identified". Klebanov explains that devices are "identified" merely by attempting to access a device at a location to find out whether a device is present at the location. Merely noting that a device is present at a location does

not equate to verifying that the device has a unique identifier. Therefore, Klebanov does not disclose verifying a fleet device has a unique identifier.

In contrast, Applicants' dependent claims 6 and 14 include wording that the fleet device is verified to have a unique identifier. Neither Klebanov nor Lecheler discloses this limitation.

The Examiner has rejected claims 3 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Klebanov in view of Lecheler et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,469,986. (Examiner's Action, page 5, ¶ 4).

In view of Applicant's arguments and amendments with respect to independent claims 1, 9, and 17 being allowable, Applicant respectfully submits that the remaining dependent claims are also allowable because they contain all of the limitations of their respective independent claims and further add structural and functional limitations.

The foregoing amendments and arguments are believed to be a complete response to the most recent Examiner's Action.

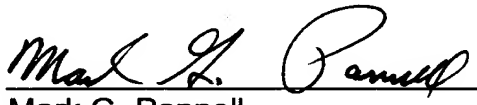
No new matter has been added.

It is respectfully submitted that there is no claim, teaching, motivation, or suggestion in any of the cited art, alone or in combination, to produce what Applicants claim.

It is further submitted that the application, as amended, defines patentable subject matter and that the claims are in a condition for allowance. Such allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Should any issues remain which would preclude the prompt disposition of this case, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned practitioner by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,
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